

Media Release

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Unfair NBN Charges to Hit New Home Buyers

New home buyers are likely to suffer under a Government plan to charge them thousands of dollars in extra fees for connecting to the National Broadband Network (NBN).

The Urban Development Institute of Australia (UDIA) has strongly criticised the Government's new NBN Greenfields policy, which will burden new home buyers with the cost of building the NBN, whilst existing households continue to get it for free.

UDIA National President Cameron Shephard said that new home buyers were already paying more than their fair share for the NBN.

"As it stands, new home buyers are already contributing between \$500 and \$1500 for the cost of delivering NBN pit and pipe infrastructure, which existing households don't have to pay," said Mr. Shephard.

"The Government's plan will add another \$900 in connection and infrastructure charges, and a potentially unlimited amount in additional backhaul charges, which could amount to several thousands of dollars per home.

UDIA has argued that the Government forcing new home buyers to pay for the construction of backhaul would not only make new housing more expensive, but would be highly inequitable, as backhaul is trunk infrastructure utilised by the wider community.

"Why should a young family or first home owner struggling to afford a house or apartment on the city fringe be required to subsidise wealthier existing homeowners, who will get the NBN for free?" said Mr Shephard.

"Housing in Australia is already very expensive as a result of a raft of unnecessary Government taxes and red tape, and this proposal could be the difference between realising the Australian dream or not for many new home buyers."

“The proposal is particularly disappointing given the Government’s previous commitment to reduce taxes, charges, and red tape, and take pressure off Australian households,” concluded Mr Shephard.

UDIA’s submission to the new NBN policy can be accessed [here](#).

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